

This means that the National Guard can be mobilized any time natural disasters or other emergencies occur within America's borders, and also serve alongside U.S. combat forces in other parts of the world.

The Guard's roots go back to North America's earliest colonial militias: farmers, shopkeepers and everyday citizens willing to put their lives on hold and pick up their weapons to defend their communities and their country. Today, Citizen-Soldiers live, work and go to school in cities and towns all across America and its territories. And just as they have for over 370 years, the men and women of the National Guard are trained, willing and proud to assist their neighbors during emergencies, and to protect their nation whenever they are called.

This bill allows us to show our appreciation and honor the service of veterans who have served in the National Guard. These veterans have given great contributions and made incredible personal sacrifices so that all of us in this country might live in a safe and secure nation and world.

Madam Speaker, whether it is the ultimate sacrifice of life or the loss of limb or the loss of time with family and friends, we owe our veterans an enormous outstanding debt of gratitude. The debt of gratitude we owe to the soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen who answered their nation's call and made supreme sacrifices can never be repaid. But the nation can follow President Lincoln's admonition to 'care for him who has borne the battle, and for his [family].' Indeed, it is the least we can do.

It is out of my profound respect and gratitude for all who wear and have worn the uniform of the United States that I continue to work so to support legislation that will ensure that veterans receive the health care, job opportunities, housing assistance, and educational benefits they deserve. As their slogan says, "Always ready, always there. That is the National Guard." Now, it is time for us to be there for them.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to express my strong support for this bill and I urge my colleagues to join me in doing what is only right—taking care of and honoring our heroes who serve to protect us.

“BE ABOUT PEACE DAY”

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend my constituents in South Mountain Peace Action of Maplewood and South Orange, NJ. These citizens work in their community on behalf of peace and they hold an annual all-day event called “Be About Peace Day” that attracts hundreds of children and parents. Currently, South Mountain Peace Action is organizing a public forum called “Israeli-Palestinian Peace: The Obama-Clinton Program for a Two-State Solution and How We Can Support It” that will be held on March 24, 2010, at Maplewood Memorial Library. The meeting will enable residents to increase their understanding of the issues and to learn how to get involved themselves in the peace process.

There is no greater cause than peace and there is no issue more important for achieving

peace than resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In February, I visited Israel and the Palestinian Territory as part of a congressional delegation and met with leaders of government and civil society to assess the state of American efforts to end the region's conflicts.

We learned much on the trip—seeing firsthand the urgency shared across the region to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through a two-state solution. We met the Deputy Prime Minister of Israel, the Prime Minister of the Palestinian Authority in Ramallah and civil society leaders across the region. In Israel, we heard from settlers and human rights activists. Over and over again, we heard about the importance of American leadership in efforts to end the conflict diplomatically. It is why I am encouraged by groups like South Mountain Peace Action, who are supporting the peace process at the grassroots level.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIONS CLUB OF OGDEN, IOWA

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Lions Club of Ogden, Iowa on their 80th anniversary. The club has been active since November 29, 1929 in Ogden, which is located in Boone County in Central Iowa.

The International Lions Club is a volunteer organization which works together to answer the needs that challenge communities around the world, including an end to preventable blindness, cleaning local parks and providing essential supplies to victims of natural disasters.

In records that date back 40 years, the local organization has donated over \$88,000 to various organizations including: Ogden High School scholarships, eye exams and glasses for the needy, the food pantry, Boy Scouts, Relay for Life, and more. The group meets bi-monthly and has 36 active members who honorably live by their motto, “We serve.”

Again, I congratulate the Lions Club of Ogden and current club president, Harry Dannen, on this historic anniversary. The Lions Club of Ogden is an example of what Iowa is all about—citizens motivated and dedicated to improving their communities and helping their neighbors in need. It is an honor to represent each member of this remarkable group in the United States Congress, and I wish them an equally storied future.

TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER FATORA

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Mr. DICKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding Naval Officer, Commander Jeffrey Fatora, and to recognize his dedicated service to our Nation. It is a great honor for me to thank Commander Fatora for his distinguished service in the Submarine Force. Commander Fatora has proudly and selflessly served our Nation for 23 years,

and he will retire from the naval service on July 1 of this year.

It was during his last assignment to the Secretary of the Navy's Appropriations Matters office that I first came to know Commander Fatora. In this capacity, he has proved to be an invaluable link between the Navy and me, my staff, and the Appropriations Committee. For nearly four years Commander Fatora provided valuable assistance to me and to Members of the House Appropriations Committee. He often traveled with Members of the Committee—sometimes into combat zones—and always ensured that the Committee had direct access to Department of Defense facilities and combat units worldwide.

On every occasion, Commander Fatora performed his duties in an exacting and precise manner. But far more important to me and the members of the Appropriations Committee was the effectiveness by which he kept us informed of important developments within the Department of the Navy, allowing us to make important decisions on resource allocation based upon the facts.

Commander Fatora began his submarine service aboard USS *Indianapolis* (SSN 697) in Pearl Harbor, completing two Western Pacific Deployments. As a member of the commissioning crew of USS *Louisiana* (SSBN 743), he was the very first officer qualified as Officer of the Deck on the ship. But clearly, his most notable service was as the Weapons Officer aboard USS *Providence* (SSN 719), which was the first American warship to arrive off the coast of Pakistan following the attacks of September 11th, 2001. As the leader of the *Providence* strike team, he ensured that 25 Tomahawk Cruise Missiles found their targets in Afghanistan during the opening salvos of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Later, as a Staff Officer for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, he worked diligently with a multi-national task force to execute the anti-terrorist Operation Active Endeavour. Finally, serving as Executive Officer aboard USS *Pittsburgh* (SSN 720), he guided the crew through a very challenging Engineered Overhaul at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.

In closing, on behalf of the House of Representatives and especially my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee, I want to express my thanks and appreciation for the special contribution Commander Fatora has made during his naval service. We wish him and his family continued success and the traditional naval wish of “fair winds and following seas.”

RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. GLENN THOMPSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, March 21, 2010

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, for the first time in history, the House of Representatives will pass a life-changing measure without a single Republican vote in favor. That vote will impact one-sixth of our U.S. economy and affect every man, woman and child in the nation, now and for generations to come.

In almost every poll, the majority of Americans didn't like this bill or the manner in which it was placed before the Congress for a vote.